GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3440
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2001
SCHEMES FOR WOMEN`S EMPOWERMENT
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the best schemes for empowerment of women which are reaching the targeted beneficiaries amongst women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the outside assistance is being taken to focus on women?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Every scheme for empowerment of women is reaching the targeted beneficiaries. Mahila Samakhya Yojana has been awarded internationally. Women's Employment Programme has been rated as a best practice by the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD).

(b) The details of the schemes are provided in the enclosed annexure.

(c) The scheme listed at serial number 2 of the annexure is partly supported by Norwegian Agency for International Development, while the scheme at serial number 14 is funded by the IFAD and World Bank.

Annexure

Statement referred to in the reply to (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3440 for 14.8.2001

Women Specific Schemes of Department of Women and Children

1. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)

This Programme launched in 1987, seeks to provide updated skills and new knowledge to poor and assetless women in the traditional sectors, such as, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry and wasteland development for enhancing their productivity and income generation. This would enhance and broaden their employment opportunities, including self-employment and development of entrepreneurial skills. Women beneficiaries are organised into viable and cohesive groups or co- operatives. A comprehensive package of services, such as, extension, inputs, market linkages etc. are provided besides linkage with credit for transfer of assets.

Since the inception of the programme, about 4,91,795 women have been covered under 96 projects in different parts of the country.

2. Women's Economic Programme (NORAD)

This programme was launched in 1982-83 with assistance from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation(NORAD). Under this programme, financial assistance is given to Women's Development Corporations, Public Sector Corporations, autonomous bodies, and voluntary organisations, to train poor women, mostly in non- traditional trades and to ensure their employment in these areas. Some of the trades are computer programming, electronics, watch assembling, radio and television repairs, garment making, secretarial practices, community health work, embroidery, weaving, etc. Financial assistance is given to the grantee organisation for hiring of training-cum- production sheds, training costs, machinery and equipment, stipend to the trainees and remuneration for the trainers. The upper ceiling for assistance under this Scheme is normally confined to Rs. 8000/-per beneficiary.

Since the inception of the programme in 1982-83, 1850 projects benefiting 2.50 lakh women have been implemented.

3. Distance Education for Women`s Development & Empowerment

Self-Help Groups have emerged as one of the major strategies for women`s empowerment. Sustainability of the majority of these groups was a major problem and one of the prime reasons for that was lack of a proper training strategy. In order to address some of

these critical areas of concern a scheme called Distance Education for Women`s Development & Empowerment was launched in 2000.

The Scheme entails a certificate course by IGNOU to train a large mass of trainers from amongst village level implementers of the projects, their supervisors and district level functionaries. Such trainers, after their successful participation in the programme, would be able to guide sustainable group formation work in their areas.

The implementation of the project is being jointly undertaken by the Department of Women & Child Development, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

4. Hostel for Working Women

Under the scheme of construction/expansion of Hostel Building for Working women with a Day Care Centre, financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations, local bodies and cooperative institutions engaged in the field of women's/social welfare/women's education. Public Sector Undertaking, Women Development Corporations, Educational Institutions and State Governments for the construction of hostels for working women in order to enable women seek employment and participate in technical training. The objective of the Scheme is to provide cheap and safe hostel accommodation to employed working living out of their homes. The target beneficiaries are single working women, widows, divorcee, separated and working women whose husbands are out of town. Women getting training for employment and girl students studying in post school professional courses are also eligible to stay in the hostel.

5. Short Stay Homes for Women and Girls

The scheme was launched in 1969 to protect and rehabilitate those women and girls who are facing social and moral danger due to family problems, mental strains, social ostracism, exploitation and other causes. The services extended in these homes include medical care, psychiatric treatment, case work services, occupational therapy, education-cum-vocational training and v recreational facilities. A recurring grant of Rs 4,01,350 and non- recurring grant of Rs 50,000 is provided under the scheme. The new Homes are sanctioned by the Department, but maintenance of the existing Homes is looked after by the Central Social Welfare Board through the State Boards.

6. Condensed Course of Education for Adult Women

The Scheme of Condensed Course of Education for Women was started by the Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1958 with the objective of providing basic education and skills to needy women and also to benefit widows, destitute deserted women and also those belonging to economically backward classes. Under the Scheme, grant is given to voluntary organisations for conducting courses of two-year duration for preparing candidates for primary, middle and matric level examinations and one-year duration for matric failed candidates. During the year 2000-2001, grants amounting to Rs.247.47 lakhs have been sanctioned for conducting 443 courses, which benefited 11,225 women candidates.

7. Vocational Training Programme

Based on the national policy on skill development for girls and women the Central Social Welfare Board had started the Scheme of the Vocational Training Programme in the year 1975 to train women in marketable trades and also to upgrade their skills in order to enable and empower them to access remunerative employment opportunities, which will enhance their self-confidence and self-esteem. The Training Programme is organised in rural, tribal, backward, urban slum areas through voluntary organisations in the traditional and non-traditional trades like Computer Training, Community Health Workers, Paramedical Vocations, Typing and Shorthand, to enable them to get employment in Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Corporations, Autonomous Bodies, Private Sector etc. Special emphasis is also laid on implementing this Programme in After Care- Homes, Women Cell of Jails and other custodian institutions. The organisations are identified through State Social Welfare Advisory Boards in all States/U.Ts. And implementation of the training programme is monitored through field machinery. The skills of traditional artisans are also being upgraded to provide opportunities for self- employment. The Scheme has been instrumental in providing job opportunities to a large number of needy women and thereby enhancing their socio-economic status.

8. Awareness Generation Projects for Rural & Poor Women

The Awareness Generation Programme aims to identify the needs of rural and poor women and to generate awareness among them about their status in the family and society and to activate them to work for achieving their rights and to deal with social issues. Since 1993-94, special emphasis has been given to participation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions and their role in promoting national integration and communal harmony. Some of the schemes of the Department of Women & Child Development such as the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana have also been included in this Scheme to motivate rural women towards self-reliance. Relevant topics are taken up in a camp of 8 days duration for 25 beneficiaries, which are followed by 2 days for detailed evaluation of the camp. The assessment of the impact of the camp on the beneficiaries and the community is done within 6 months on completion of the camp. A sum of Rs.10,000/- is given to an organisation for one Awareness Generation Project. Training of organisers is a pre-requisite condition for organising the camps for which a number of training centres in every state have been identified by the National Standing Committee and CSWB. The expense of Rs.1000/- per trainee is provided by the Central Social Welfare Board.

9. Socio-economic Programme

The Socio-Economic Programme of the Central Social Welfare Board endeavors to provide employment opportunities on full or part time basis to destitute women, widows, deserted and the physically handicapped, to supplement their meager family income. Besides, women entrepreneurs are encouraged to exhibit and sell their products through Exhibition-cum-Melas organised by State

Boards at Distt. level. The Central Social Welfare has two different types of schemes of assistance under this Programme as follows:

• Agro-based Units

The Central Social Welfare Board assists voluntary organisatons for setting up agro-based units like dairy, poultry, piggery, goatery etc. for poor and needy women. However, for the past few years' proposals for Agro- based Units were not considered.

• Production Units

Voluntary organisations are encouraged to set up Production Units, which can provide employment on full or part time basis to women. Project proposals should be cleared by District Industrial Centres, KVICs etc. whdook into viability of the projects. A grant is provided by the Central Social Welfare Board to facilitate setting up a Production Unit by the grantee institution. The grant is finalised on a case-to-case basis subject to a limit of Rs.3 lakhs.

10. Maintenance of Working Women's Hostels

Under this scheme Central Social Welfare Board provides a maintenance grant to voluntary organisations for providing safe accommodation to working women whose salary does not exceed Rs.16,000/- p.m. so that they are not exposed to undesirable and anti-social elements. T The following types of maintenance expenses are covered under the scheme:

i) Salary of Matron and Chowkidar
ii) Recreation facilities
iii) Difference of Rent of the Hostel building, and
iv) Maintenance of Hostel building

A minimum grant of Rs. 40,000/- and maximum grant of Rs.50,000/- is sanctioned to an institution in a year keeping in view the class or category of the city.

11. Family Counseling Centre

The objective of the Family Counseling Centre Programme is to provide preventive and rehabilitative services to women and children who are victims of atrocities and family mal-adjustments. The Scheme is being implemented since 1984 through voluntary agencies. It was evaluated through NIPCCD during the year 1990-91 and a revised scheme is in force since 1992-93. Under the revised scheme, a maximum of Rs.1 lakh per centre per annum is given for continuation of existing FCCs while Rs.1.15 lakh is given for new FCCs. The salaries of two counselors who are either Post Graduate in Social Work or Psychology and Rs.15000/- for recurring items are borne fully the Board while the institution is required to contribute 20% towards other recurring expenditure.

12. Education Work for Prevention of Atrocities on Women

The scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations for Education Work for Prevention of Atrocities on Women was started in 1982. Under this scheme, universities, colleges, women studies centres,, institutions of higher learning and voluntary organisations are given financial assistance for undertaking various activities such as production and publication of the educative journals, articles, books, conducting surveys and studies on violence against women, awards to best films, short plays, short stories, etc., translation of such material from one language to another language, holding seminars, conferences, meetings, exhibitions, film festivals etc. holding of training camps

for social workers including Govt. functionaries, legal literacy camps/para legal training camps, use of traditional media such as street plays, puppetry etc. organising Women Development Centres in educational institutes and legal and counselling services to women prisoners etc.

13. Balika Samriddhi Yojana

Ballika Samriddhi Yojana was launched in 1997-98. Under the scheme the mother of a girl child born on or after 15.8.1997, in a family below the poverty line, in rural and urban areas, was given a grant of Rs. 500/-. The Scheme has been revised in June 1999. The grant of Rs. 500/- will henceforth be deposited in a post office/bank account in the name of the new born girl and the girl will also get scholarship for each completed year of schooling in class I to class X which will also be deposited in the same account. The matured value of the account will be paid to the girl on her attaining the age of 18 years and remaining unmarried till then. The scheme is a long-term strategy to change social attitudes towards the girl-child while raising her status.

14. Rural Women's Development And Empowement Project (Swa-Shakti)

The Swa-Shakti Project, earlier known as Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project, was sanctioned on 16-10-1998 as a Centrally-sponsored Project for a period of 5 years with an estimated outlay of Rs.186.21 crore. In addition, an amount of Rs.5 crore is being provided during the project period, for facilitating the setting up, in the project states, of Revolving Funds for giving interest-bearing loans to beneficiary groups primarily during their initial formative stage. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the processes, and create an environment, for empowerment of women. Its specific objectives are:

- Establishment of 7400 to 12000 self-reliant women's self-help-groups (SHGs) having 15-20 members each, which will improve the quality of their lives, through greater access to, and control over, resources;

- Sensitizing and strengthening the institutional capacity of support agencies to pro-actively address women's needs;

- Developing linkages between SHGs and lending institutions to ensure women's continued access to credit facilities for income generation activities;

- Enhancing women's access to resources for better quality of life, including those for drudgery reduction and time-saving devices; and

- Increased control of women, particularly poor women, over income and spending, through their involvement in

income generation activities, which will indirectly help in poverty alleviation.

The project covers 35 districts in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Bihar.

15. Swayamsidha

This scheme was launched in March this year, recasting the Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) into an integrated programme for women's empowerment, renamed Swayamsiddha, and expanding it from the existing 238 blocks to 650 blocks by the end of the IX Plan.

The vision of IWEP is to develop empowered women who will demand their rights from family, community and government, have increased access to, and control over, material, social and political resources, have enhanced awareness and improved skills; and be able to raise issues of common concern through mobilization and networking.

The immediate objectives of the scheme is establishment of self-reliant women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), creation of confidence and awareness among members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and hygiene, legal rights, economic upliftment and other social, economic and political issues; strengthening and institutionalizing the savings habit in rural women and their control over economic resources; improving access of women to micro credit; involvement of women in local level planning; and convergence of services of DWCD and other Departments.

This scheme will be implemented by the State Governments through the identified Nodal Departments at the State level and implementing agencies at the Block level (PIAs). A PIA may be any appropriate agency, Governmental or Non-governmental, including district/ intermediary level panchayat institutions, as also NGOs or Government departments/organisations. The PIAs will prepare block specific projects, which would be integrated projects for 4-5 years incorporating the following four elements:

- Group formation/mobilisation activities;
- Community oriented innovative interventions;
- Other schemes of DWCD, namely NORAD, STEP, SEP and AGP, and other schemes, too, if there is a felt need for the same; and
- Schemes of other departments, whether converged under GOI directions or State Government initiative.

Ministry of Rural Development

1. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

The scheme of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) came into force with effect from 1.4.1999. Under this programme, the erstwhile programmes viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme(IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans(SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana(GKY) and Millions Well Scheme(MWS) were integrated. This is a holistic programme covering all aspects of self-employment such as organisation of the poor into self-help groups, training, credit, technology and infrastructure. SGSY has a provision of covering 40% women beneficiaries as Swamrojgaries. The scheme mainly aims to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the poverty line in three years by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy. This programme is implemented through DRDA and with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions, banks, the line departments and the NGOs.

Department of Elementary Education

2 Non-Formal Education Centers Exclusively for Girls

This scheme was launched during 1983-84 for children in the age group of 6-14 years. The main aim of the scheme is to develop programmes of non formal education to meet the educational needs of children who are not able to attend formal schools.

3. Mahila Samakhya Yojana

Mahila Samakhya Yojana is a women`s empowerment project which endeavours to create an environment for women to seek knowledge and information in order to make informed choices and create circumstances in which women can learn at their own pace and rhythm. The centrality of education in the struggle to achieve equality is an important focus of Mahila Samakhya. The scheme not only aims at service delivery but also seeks to bring about a change in women`s perception about themselves and that of society in regard to women`s traditional roles. The strategy of the Mahila Samakhya Yojana is to evolve a modality of planning involving government institutions and voluntary agencies reaching out to the women in villages in a continuous dialogue so that the educative principle is not subordinated to the desire for immediate results. The purpose is to adopt an area intensive approach to integrate the existing efforts to provide formal and non-formal schooling, adult education upgradation of educational

qualifications through condensed courses and vocational training.

Ministry Of Health And Family Welare

4. Reproductive & Child Health Programme (RCH)

The RCH Programme is an integrated approach aims at improving the health status of young women and children which has been going on in the country. The RCH programme incorporate the components relating to child survival and safe motherhood and include to additional components, one relating to sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and other relating to reproductive tract infection (RTI). The RCH programme is a composite programme incorporating the inputs of the Government of India as well as funding support from external donor agencies. The main objectives of the scheme are:

- integrate all interventions of fertility regulation, maternal and child health with reproductive health of both men and women;
- provide services which will be client centred, demand driven, high quality and based on the needs of the community
- upgrade the level of facilities for providing various interventions and quality of care.
- improving the outreach of services primarily for the vulnerable groups of population who have till now been effectively left out of the planning process.

Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment

5. Schemes for Hostels for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Girls

a. Hostels for SC Girls

To provide hostel facilities to Scheduled Caste Girls studying in middle school, higher secondary school, colleges and Universities, construction of Hostels is one of the means to enable and encourage girl students belonging to SC community to strive towards attainment of quality education. Such hostels are immensely beneficial to students of SC communities hailing from rural and remote areas as such students can avail of best of the educational facilities available mainly in urban areas. The

scheme ensures adequate enrolment of Scheduled Caste girls in educational institutions, particularly, at the school stage.

b. Hostel for Scheduled Tribe Girls

This programme also plans to ensure adequate enrolment of Tribal girls in the educational institutions. The scheme ensures adequate enrolment of Scheduled Tribes girls in educational institutions, particularly, at the school stage.

Ministry Of Labour

6. Women's Vocational Training Programme

Launched in 1977, National Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) for Women was set up at NOIDA; and Regional Vocational Training Institutes for Women (RVTIs) have been set up at Mumbai, Bangalore Trivandrum, Hissar, Calcutta, Tura and Munnar. for offering skill training facilities to women so as to enable them find employment in industry as semi-skilled / skilled labourers; or instructors in vocational institutes; or engage in income generating activities / self-employment. Four new Regional Vocational Training Institutes for Women are also being set up with Work Bank assistance at Indore, Vadodara, Jaipur and Allahabad.

7. Grant-in-aid to the State Government

(i) Establishment of new ITIs for Women and

(ii) Strengthening of new Women's ITIs

The scheme aims to expand the Women's Vocational Training Programme both quantitatively and qualitatively, to meet the growing skilled and semi-skilled man power requirement for Industry/Service sector/domestic income generating industries and self employment. The scheme targets to expand the skill training facilities for women and to make the women employable in the industry as semi-skilled worker

8. Vocational Rehabilitation of Women with Disabilities

The scheme aims to to coordinate with various Government and non-government organisations to promote speedy rehabilitation of the disabled women by providing training, job and self-employment services. Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped, under the Government of India, Ministry of Labour are at 17 places. VRC at

Vadodara is exclusively for women and the other Centres assist both men and women with disabilities.

Ministry Of Science And Technology

9. Science and Technology for Women

Recognizing that Science and Technology have an important role to play in balanced development and it can contribute to a higher standard of living with improved opportunities for health care, education and employment, a scheme of Science and Technology for Women was started in Sixth Five Year Plan(1981). The main objectives of the scheme are to promote research, development and adaptation of technology to improve the life, working conditions and opportunities for gainful employment of women, especially in rural areas, and to increase the contribution of women to science and technology and development.